

Scenario session - Day 2, 2011 Fishers for Fish Habitat Forum

Forum participants were split into groups. Each group was provided with a (not unusual) fish habitat related scenario which they may come across when out fishing on any river or creek in NSW. The groups worked together to determine how they would identify partners to work collaboratively and address the habitat issue(s) the scenario presented.

All answers provided were informative, interesting and well thought out, demonstrating the participants' understanding and knowledge of what at first glance can appear to be a complex issue. The answers provided and thought process involved in the scenario session could assist in the early stages of a grant application for funding or planning of a fish habitat rehabilitation project.

Scenario	Team	What do you think is wrong at this site?	Who would you contact for advice?	Who would you partner with to address this issue?	How will you and your partners address this issue?	What resources might you need to address this issue?	How and where would you promote your work to the public and wider fishing community?
You're kayaking your favourite stretch of river. You decide to investigate a side creek you haven't ventured into before. You haven't gone far when you reach a causeway which is spanning the entire channel. You decide to have a closer look. The causeway appears to be in disrepair and doesn't look like anyone has used it for a while. The water upstream looks stagnant and you can clearly see a nice size fish swimming backwards and forwards on the downstream side of the structure.	Silver perch one	Obstruction to fish passage	Fisheries, CMA, local Council	Local fishing club. Fisheries	Identify partners, seek solutions	Time, knowledge, money (grants etc)	Fishing media, general media - newspapers, TV, radio
Your local river recently experienced the biggest flood in over 35 years. You decide to head out in your boat to check how your favourite fishing spots fared. You get to one spot - a nice size hole that usually comes up with some decent fish but your depth sounder shows it's pretty shallow. Mystified, you head further upstream and as you're rounding a bend you realise the river has widened and a large section of bank has collapsed	Catfish one	Erosion, siltation, animal access, water quality decreased, no fencing, overgrazed riparian zone, lack of trees	Landholders, CMA, Council, Fisheries, Conservation Council, Landcare group, Farmers Federation	Landholders, cooperative project needed	Consultation, engagement, "brake the ice" with the landholder, undertake works quickly, contact Centrelink for possible volunteers	Plan project in stages, check seasons and timing, access, cash, supervisory staff, volunteers (resources, labour, organisations, fishing clubs), fencing materials and stock watering materials, trees, ongoing maintenance requirements, weed removal etc	Fisheries Habitat network, news media, CMA, community organisations, TAFE students, signage, engage farmers and neighbours through a field day

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You're enjoying a day out on the river, fishing from a local reserve. You notice a large herd of cattle are making their way down to the river on the opposite bank. You're mate tells you the land opposite just got sold to a new farmer who has decided it's good grazing country. You watch in dismay as the herd make their way along the bank, some get right in the water for a drink, others seem to be rubbing up against remnant trees and most are lifting their tails at the water's edge.	Australian bass one (purple)	Unfenced site, nutrient input, disease transmission from stock downstream, no offsite watering, erosion	Fisheries Habitat unit, CMA, farmer, local fishing club	Habitat Unit, CMA, EPA, local fishing club, landcare, farmer, local school	Ring and negotiate with contacts. Seek funding in partnership with the farmer and other partners e.g. CMA, undertake fencing, riparian planting and rehabilitation, off-stream water	Funding, people, equipment - possible donation of backhoe/tip truck, public awareness, expert advice.	E-newsletters, fish habitat network, Newstreams, websites - fisheries, local clubs. Media - local, fishing journalists
You haven't ventured out to one of your old favourite fishing spots for a while so decided to make a long weekend of it. You pack up your gear and hike out into the bush and down to the river. It doesn't take you long to realise things on the river have changed. Some of your old access points are overgrown with willows and they've started creeping out into the river. The river always used to have a nice flow but now it appears to be slower and is gouging into the banks at different sections.	Yellowbelly one	Willows	Support from local community groups, then local government (Council). DPI for help and CMA	Local landcare group, local CMA, DPI (regulations), local government authority, landholder approval	Seek what has been done elsewhere - take this to council as an illustration to motivate them. Get guidelines from DPI. Recreate a good riparian zone.	Staged removal of willows using chemical control - roundup bi-active, replant site with long-stem native indigenous plants. Burn excess foliage, keep monitoring site for regrowth and kill as required.	Through the local media, hold field days, fishing clubs
You're mates been telling you about this amazing creek he fishes for cod with deep holes and lots of woody structure. You compare it to one of your local creeks which you tend to only fish because it's not too far to travel, but the fishing could be better. When you're next out on the creek you realise it doesn't have much woody structure.	Murray cod two	What's right! No cod habitat, no exclusion fencing, no riparian veg, no cod food habitat, no buffers to reduce current eg in a high flood	CMA, Landcare, AHR, Council	Landholder, farmers groups, landcare, rec fishing trust, CMA	Stock exclusion and planting along top and tow of bank, stock off-stream watering (solar?), snagging for habitat	Manpower, knowledge, machinery, funding or sponsorship	Good news stories in fishing forum, face to face is best

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